

Rt. Reverend Gyula Marfi

Archbishop of Veszprem

Hungary

February 18th, 2012

Professor David Baer

Texas Lutheran University

USA

Dear Professor Baer,

Through the good offices of Professor Istvan Kamaras your letter, dated January 17th 2012, was forwarded to me in which you evaluate the current situation in Hungary, and the actions of the current Hungarian government in particular. I am grateful that you take an interest in the well-being of our nation, yet at the same time, I cannot remain passive by withholding some critical observations that I will summarize below in a spirit of sincere friendship.

My fundamental objection is that your letter reflects a one-sided and somewhat superficial knowledge of the situation in Hungary and in Europe, and an apparent lack of understanding of how the larger issues are connected.

1. I would begin my reply concerning the issue of religious freedom. As an Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church, I am delighted you as a Professor at a Lutheran University quote from the second Vatican Council's document *Dignitatis Humanae* that deals with the issue of freedom of religion and conscience, yet, at the same time, I fail to comprehend how the Hungarian Law that you criticize in any way curbs these freedoms. In Hungary today, everyone is entitled to practice his or her religion as deemed appropriate, either as individuals or as communities. The public recognition of specific religious groups is only important insofar as their material support from the state is concerned. It is therefore understandable that the Hungarian state provides support to

only to those groups that have contributed to our nation's survival and well-being during its not-so-easy history, or whose activities have significantly served to the public good by their involvement in education, health-care or charitable works.

You are critical that the registration and public support of these groups are determined by Parliament and not by the judiciary, which indicates to me that you are not well informed of the situation of our country. It is worth pointing out that there are numerous individuals with positions of influence in today's independent Hungarian judicial system who had been committed supporters of the previous dictatorship, and had actively participated in anti-religious activities, such as the staging of show-trials. These trials were a travesty involved a complete reversal of civilized legal procedures. To illustrate this point, first the sentence was decided according to some pre-fabricated "concept" of guilt, then the submissions of the witnesses were orchestrated, and eventually the "evidence" was planted! In addition, during the past twenty years, the judiciary has shown itself quite incompetent in a realistic registration of many religious groups: more than three hundred of such "churches" were recognized and many have failed to meet even the basic minimum requirements for such a designation.

I have in my possession a document, published in 2007, in which I found four "churches" in small villages had the same address, and were represented by the same individual. Certain "churches" were given official recognition that was risible in the eyes of more committed religious believers. While their names lose their flavour in translation, they included names such as (the church) of "Charming Pilgrims", or "Hungarian Alliance of Witches", or the "Church of Good Cheer". To make clarify this situation further, these registered communities did not carry out any activities that were faith-related; in fact they sought to be registered only to gain financial support from the state. This largely explains why the following registered "churches" came into existence: three Adventists, six Jewish, and thirteen (!) Buddhist groups were granted such a status. (I discussed the latter's case with a Nepalese Lama, who considered these groups laughable, given that only four or so major divisions exist in Buddhism.)

To answer your concern about specific religious groups that were mentioned in your letter, these churches do not have any historical legitimacy in Hungary. In spite of this, as I have already pointed out, three Methodist Churches have been registered. It is extremely difficult to decide which one is a real faith-community and which one is a “business-church”. By way of an example, Gabor Hanyi, a Methodist minister is widely known, but mainly as an attention-seeking politician rather than a preacher. His community is not recognized by the Methodist World Council. He calls his “church” the Evangelical Church of Brotherhood in Hungary”. I am not aware of the existence of an Anglican Community in Hungary, yet one such church is registered as St. Margaret Anglican- Episcopal Church, and given its name, a High Church and pro-Catholic orientation would be likely. Its pastor lives in the small town of Budakeszi, in which no Anglican community exists, and he seems to cater to the spiritual needs of the staff of the British Embassy!

As I am composing this letter, I have just received news that the Hungarian Parliament has just recognized seventeen more churches , including the a Hungarian Methodist Church, and the Anglican Church mentioned above, resulting in a total of 31 recognized faith-groups in Hungary. I would be extremely grateful to you Professor Baer, if you could identify any other country in Europe that provides public funding to a greater number of faith-groups! If this task were to become impossible, I would ask you to direct your criticism to England, the Scandinavian countries, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania which give respectively the Anglican, Lutheran, and Orthodox religions the status of a state religion to this day! In Romania, the Greek-Catholic Church has yet to fully regain the properties confiscated by the Ceausescu regime and which were handed over to the Romanian Orthodox Church!

2. My second objection to the contents of your letter refers to the part that in which you criticize the “European-ness” of the Orban government. From my perspective, it seems that your knowledge of the situation is incomplete and one-sided. The view of Europe that you seem to convey is one that existed during the era of Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schumann, Alcide de Gasperi, and Jean Monnet. Such Europe does not exist anymore; it is divided not only by economic interests, but also by its ideology. A quiet, hidden, Christian Europe still exists, but it is dominated by the power and the media of a shrill, anti-Christian, ultra-liberal Europe, which may recognize the “Great Architect”, but denies the existence of Jesus Christ and the

God of the Commandments. It is they who force-feed the population with “freedom”, which like a medical overdose, poisons rather than cures.

To them being “European” means being pro-choice, pro-free love, pro-same-sex marriage, pro-gender-ideology, and an enthusiasm for a free-for-all capitalism that leads to the accumulation of huge profits at the expense of small and medium-sized enterprises, and the impoverishment of the average citizen.

Today’s “left-wing” modern Europe has in reality become the Europe of ex-communists who have metamorphosed into being capitalists; of “freedom fighters” and “defenders of democracy” who had been willing accomplices of dictatorships; of the deniers of two thousand years of moral traditions; of “defenders of religious freedom” who had once persecuted religion. They, like the Pharisees, are only consistent in spreading lies and calumny on a monumental scale. When they accuse the Orban government of being autocratic and anti-Europe, stuck in the past, and disrespectful of religious freedom, they are pointing out their own shortcomings, however not in themselves, but in others. I have never sought to have Mr.Orban canonized; he has faults like everybody else, and, no doubt, has made some wrong decisions. But he who has no faults should cast the first stone on him!

The members of the ultra-liberal and even the so-called “conservative” parties were present at the session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, which we could also watch live on Hir TV. It was staged to humiliate Viktor Orban. I could not help noticing that the one-time followers of Mao, one of the most ruthless dictators of the 20th century, were preaching about democracy. A well-known pedophile, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, was lecturing Mr.Orban, who is a father of five children from his wife, to whom he is married. In this tragicomedy, Orban was the only true European. He answered the rants of the likes of Cohn-Bendit with dignity and calmness, and simply asked that as a supporter of traditional values for the family, and a Hungarian patriot, he too, is and wishes to remain a “European”. By the way, the most significant accusation against Orban is similar to the one raised against Lot, four thousand years ago, that his attitude is not sufficiently pro-gay. But prophets in the past suffered from similar accusations. The early Christians in Rome did not behave according to the mores of the declining empire, which reminds me that today’s Europe has also begun its downward spiral. Gladiators are not, as yet, killing each other in arenas, but there are merciless fights for

money; the programs in the mass-media cater to the lowest levels of taste and decency where women brag about their love-affairs instead of their children. Europe no longer sends missionaries to the Third World, because it has itself become an area where such are needed, and no wonder they come from far-away lands in Africa, India, the Philippines and even Indonesia.

3. My third observation is a shortcoming of perspective: you, Sir, seem to ignore that it is not just Europe that is involved in the “Orban Affair”. You represent Europe as an independent empire in your letter, which is seemingly having a problem with one of its recalcitrant provinces. Yet if you believe that this is simply a European internal affair, I am afraid, you are sadly mistaken. Orban’s problems are primarily with international extremist -capitalism and not the European Union per se. These international capitalists likely have their headquarters in Wall Street, in New York, and we simply refer to them collectively as “Americans”. Yet this name is incorrect. Money and its servants have no masters or allegiances. They are “citizens of the world” in the worst sense of the phrase and their aim is to dominate all.

To achieve this ambition, they need colossal amounts of money. This is why they are not satisfied with the wars that were started ostensibly to save or import democracy; they buy off the medical profession, its physicians and pharmacists; they control pharmaceutical firms and other multinational enterprises. Yet they also want to have the average citizens in various countries to become their sources of profits. To achieve this they would try to influence freely-held elections, or buy off certain governments. To them a “good” government is one that is willing to take on loans that do not serve the public interests, spend the borrowed money, and sink their citizens into a morass of debt! Such a government does not have to fear of being called dictatorial; it can get away with shooting its peaceful citizens with rubber bullets; it can ban its own people from attending national celebrations, and has to erect a barrier around the Parliament to keep law-abiding groups out of the way; it can falsify and deliberately lie about official statistics yet still be called “democratic” and “European”. The only time they get a tap on the shoulder happens when their disastrous policies have pushed their countries to the edge of complete insolvency. Now, the rules are different for “bad” governments, which try to break out of the debt-trap. Suddenly, their credit-rating is

lowered, even if unwarranted; the prime-minister is compared to a Stalin or a Hitler; he is called a “gypsy” on the one hand, and anti-Roma on the other hand, even though he disbanded the vigilante hate-groups that had threatened that community, and his party in the European Parliament has its first female member of Roma background. Even when he supports Jewish faith-groups and has Jewish friends, he is still labeled anti-Semitic!

The cabal of mega-capitalists is especially upset with Viktor Orban for bringing in legislation that has taxed foreign banks, and curbed some of the privileges that multinational companies have enjoyed. These measures are not different from what other countries have implemented or are about to do. This is why the current campaign is taking place, which, I hasten to add, is orchestrated in the United States. The main protagonists are American: Hillary Clinton, Charles Gati and George Soros, but, on the surface at least, European participants seem to form the majority. This former group is taking advantage of the divisions in Europe, seeks the support of officials of the European Council and the Strasbourg Parliament, especially those who are Viktor Orban’s ideological adversaries. It goes without saying that they use the members of the Hungarian opposition who are particularly upset at Mr.Orban’s party acquiring a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

The legislators of the European Union are fully aware of the threat this form of mega-capitalism poses to Europe, yet they still cooperate from a variety of motives: economic interest, fear or ideology! This situation is not new: two thousand years ago the powers-that-be allied themselves with the hated Pilate! There are also the false witnesses who spread lies through the media that they largely control, and even persuade some right-wing commentators to “crucify” Viktor Orban. Akos Kertesz recently insulted Hungarians by calling them an “inferior breed”, and Nobel-Prize winner, Imre Kertesz, called them a nation of “rats”.

Every polity, including European Union, has its rules and regulations that it is next to impossible to comply with fully. Yet these same rules can serve an excellent way to make examples of governments or groups who do not fully toe the line! The double standard has become an everyday practice for the ultra-liberals, but sometimes even their old-style Bolshevik methods seem to reappear. Yell fire, so you deflect attention from yourself!

There exists an agreement between that the IMF forced on the former communist government when it faced a desperate shortage of convertible funds whose stipulations state that its possessions in Hungary are above the local law, including any form of regulation and inspection. This also applies to the employees and even renters of these properties, such that they are immune from any legal recourse both in Hungary or the International Judiciary in The Hague.

This, I am afraid, is simply the meanest form of dictatorship, and seems to be an integral part of an ultra-liberal, mega-capitalist system that is above national control, and is a direct descendant of Nazi and Stalinist tyranny! Professor Baer, you are perhaps unaware that we in Hungary know from bitter, historical, experience that former fascists became the most savage communists! What we see today is that former Bolsheviks have metamorphosed into the richest capitalists and it is they who are shedding crocodile tears worrying about the state of democracy in Hungary! Ferenc Gyurcsany, Laszlo Kovacs, Jose Manuel Barroso, Daniel Cohn-Bendit were all believers in a red dictatorship, and today, as servants of extreme-capitalism, they “worry about democracy”!

Adolf Hitler tried to unite the world’s Germans to gain global supremacy! “Workers of the world unite”, was Stalin’s favourite cliché, to achieve his version of controlling the world! Now, its “ultra-capitalists of the world form cartels” is the motto of a group that has grabbed a great deal of global wealth by unethical means!

The methods differ, but the aims are the same! No dictatorship tolerates criticism, or anyone who fails to “fit in”. I believe that it is the Holy Spirit that alone can save the world and our beloved continent from this strait-jacket, and bring forth a Christian Europe that is quietly fermenting deep down.

With respect and affection,

Yours sincerely,

Gyula Marfi

Archbishop of Veszprem

